

REMARKS

Claims 1-60 are pending in this application. Claims 12, 42 and 60 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 15, 23, 26, 27, 32, 33, 40 and 43-59 have been amended by the present Amendment. Amended claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 15, 23, 26, 27, 32, 33, 40 and 43-59 do not introduce any new subject matter.

SUMMARY OF JUNE 11, 2007 EXAMINER INTERVIEW

On June 11, 2007, an interview was conducted between Examiner Quynh H. Nguyen, and Michael F. Morano, Reg. No. 44,952, the attorney for Applicants.

During the interview, amendments to claims 1, 26 and 43 were proposed to overcome the rejections based on U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0176085 ("Phillips") and U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0170164 ("LeBlanc"). The proposed claim amendments are incorporated in the instant Response.

The Examiner indicated that the proposed amendments to claims 1, 26 and 43 are sufficient to overcome the rejections based on Phillips and LeBlanc, and to distinguish claims 1, 26 and 43 from Phillips and LeBlanc.

The Examiner's cooperation and consideration of Applicants' proposed amendments during the interview is gratefully acknowledged.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1-12, 14, 19, 26-33, 35, 39, 43-50, 52 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0176085 ("Phillips").

Reconsideration is also respectfully requested of the rejection of (1) claims 13, 34 and 51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips; and (2) claims

15-18, 20-25, 36-38, 40-42, 53-55 and 57-60 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips in view of U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0170164 ("LeBlanc")

As stated above, during the June 11, 2007 interview with the Examiner, the Examiner indicated that the amendments to claims 1, 26 and 43 distinguish claims 1, 26 and 43 over the cited references.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 1, 26 and 43 are not anticipated by Phillips, and are patentable over Phillips when taken alone or in combination with LeBlanc.

For at least the reason that claims 2-11 and 13-25 depend from claim 1, claims 27-41 depend from claim 26, and claims 44-59 depend from claim 43, claims 2-11, 13-25, 27-41 and 44-59 are also submitted not to be anticipated by Phillips, and to be patentable over Phillips when taken alone or in combination with LeBlanc, claims 12, 42 and 60 having been cancelled.

As such, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-60 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of all the dependent claims because Applicants submit that, in view of the amendments to the claims presented herein and, for at least similar reasons as why the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are believed allowable as discussed, *supra*, the dependent claims are also allowable. Applicants however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or

appropriate.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 26 and 43 and cancelled claims 12, 42 and 60 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the instant application. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

An early and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may telephone Applicants' Attorney to reach a prompt disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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